

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

It is believed that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Loeffler
Reg. No. 37,873
Attorney for Applicant(s)

CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Telephone: (631) 501-5700
Facsimile: (631) 501-3526

Mailing Address:
Chief Patent Counsel
UNITED STATES SURGICAL,
A Division of Tyco Healthcare Group LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut 06856
(203) 845-1480